

Main Street Reisterstown Program Minutes

Location/Date: Reter's Crabhouse, Reisterstown - January 22, 2013

Attendees: Amy Mantay, Glenn Barnes, Mary Molinaro, Calvin Reter, Shirley Smith, Kathy Gambrill, Dan Carey, Kevin Kowitz, Tony Baysmore, Kinsey Gill, Jimmy Roberts, Irwin Kramer, Dave Powers, Paul Davolos, Vicki Almond, Steven Hennigan

After everyone in attendance introduced themselves, Amy asked Vicki if she had any comments from the County Council. Vicki said she came to observe and support our work. Amy reviewed that last week we focused on the Safety portion of the Clean, Safe, Green committee with Captain McElwee's report and feels good that we are forming a strong relationship with the police department. Kinsey said she noticed an increased presence since our meeting last week and Glenn said he observed speeding tickets being issued on Main Street. Everyone expressed their gratitude about the police effort to help. Amy asked Dave to speak about his work with Chartley.

Dave explained that he has been gathering crime statistics for Chartley and has headed the COP program there for many years. He said that there are always increases around holidays. However, this year he noticed more robberies and assaults around Main Street businesses. He traveled Main Street and doesn't think there is sufficient lighting to deter criminals. He also thinks that cameras along Main Street could help. There was some discussion that it can be a double edged sword. Some people feel that the cameras mean it is a crime area and maybe they shouldn't come in contrast to the opinion that cameras would deter criminals from coming to the area. Dave also commented that over the years it has been difficult to keep people active on the COP committee. Mary discussed that while people may not actually be listed on the committee with times they patrol, everyone is encouraged to keep there eyes open when out and about and call 911 whenever they see something that just seems wrong. So the feeling of community is still strong in Chartley.

There currently isn't a county program for a commercial area and it can be expensive to hire security; but, that is another consideration. Kinsey handed out some business cards for ARM Security which is located at 208 Main Street should anyone want to discuss options for their business. Kevin commented that since Captain McElwee spoke last week that he has been able to stay under the man hours budget, maybe he can allot those in his budget to the Main Street area until the situation is under control. We need Main Street to be safe for people to want to come shop and eat.

While the COP program isn't an option and Chartley COP needs to operate within its boundaries, Dave suggested that the merchants recognize the problems along Main Street and band together as a team. The grant received by the county each year isn't so much that Main Street can't form their own group without it. Mary suggested that they can follow the model used by Chartley COP program. While Dave was out he noticed some groups of people on the East side where the lighting was poor. Jimmy talked

about getting gas at the Citgo station and noticed the door wasn't locked and suggested to the owner that he do so since it was dark. Calvin said that some people are open late and have concerns when closing and it would be good to have some police presence while people are leaving. Mary discussed the importance of the business owners being aware of their surroundings and if anything seems concerning they should call 911 or 311 if simply sharing the situation and not needing police to come at that moment. That allows the police to monitor trends and gather statistics to recognize patterns. Glenn talked about a couple situations where he was down in the city and felt uncomfortable with an approaching group. He moved off to the street to avoid a confrontation as rarely will a criminal follow into the street.

Tony said that he has contacted Greg Karski about the lighting issue on Main Street after the last RIA meeting and would like to have him come to one of our future meetings. After some discussion, it was decided that the February monthly meeting for RIA would be the best time and Tony said he would arrange it. Tony also said that the Police Community Relations Council (PCRC) which meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Franklin precinct is a great group and we should send a representative. It is unfortunate that it is the same night as the RIA meeting.

Amy said that the next thing she would like to do is have some projects for each committee and they should start arranging some meetings among themselves. She suggested that the Organization committee should work on organizing a coffee with merchants some time in the next month. She is still trying to make a decision about the March date for the town hall meeting. She's thinking about Thursday or another day the week of March 18th.

Amy would like the Design committee to work on conducting a walkability survey. The county will deal with the data, map has a key and they will collate the data but need help collecting the data. The maps are divided into 45 sections. The survey has questions like "how wide is the sidewalk," "clock speeding," "how many businesses are open at certain times of the day and are they really open when indicated." Amy said she has been working from Java Mamas on the days she is in Reisterstown and will be there tomorrow (Wednesday, 23rd) if anyone can meet her around 10am to start with the survey project. Donnell will be overseeing this project and while it is cold, Amy would like to get started as possible.

Once the statistics of the survey have been gathered, Amy feels she will have talking points with the DPW of the County and the SHA when having conversations about street crossings, parking and such.

With discussions by people today, the committee members are now:

Organization: **Mary Molinaro**, Lorena DeLeon, Alice Reid, Ernie Schmidhauser, Kathy Gambrill, and Kinsey Gill

Economic Restructuring: **Paul Davolos**, Glenn Barnes, Calvin Reter, and Shirley Smith

Promotion: **Glenn Barnes**, Christy Tasker

Design: **Irwin Kramer**, Glenn Barnes, Calvin Reter, and Alexis Kosmas

Clean, Safe & Green: **Dan Carey**, Kevin Kowitz, Brad Reter, Dave Powers, and Jimmy Roberts

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am

The next meeting will be held at Reter's Crabhouse, Monday, January 28, 2013 at 10am.